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THE
AGE OF PROPHECY!

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OR,

FURTHER TESTIMONY OF THE MISSION

OF

RICHARD BROTHERS.

BY A CONVERT. K

AUDI, ET CREDE.

LONDON,

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1795.

AGE OF PROPHECY!

THE HISTORY OF THE NATION

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LONDON: W. & A. GILBERT, 1851.

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DEDICATION.

TO

NATHANIEL BRASSY HALHED, M. P.

SAPIENT SIR,

IN strict conformity to the commands of the ALMIGHTY, delivered to his highly favoured Nephew, I address you, not without your TITLES ; but still, the curious observer will perceive, I do not deviate, in so doing, from the purity and plainness of our prophetic predecessors ; nor am I guilty of adulation or aristocracy, as *M. P.* without metonymy, may stand, by a happy sympathy of letters, as
well

well for *Minor Prophet*, as for *Member of Parliament*: and I hope, when at the expiration of the time predicted by Daniel for the fulfilling the prophecies of Brothers---when that augean institution of Parliaments shall be dissolved, and a Convention substituted---when Monarchies shall perish---and when the modern Babylon shall be engulfed three or four score fathoms beneath the oozy bed of old Thames, I may, though a young and humble Convert, then approach thee with fraternal familiarity, and, accosting thee by the titles of *Citizen Halhed*, *M. P.* kiss thy holy beard.

Be pleased, Sir, to accept this small sacrifice to thy superior merits---merits which shall and will command the praise of our holy ancient matrons for ages to come; and happy am I that it hath pleased God to inspire me also to write a defence of our great
Pro-

Prophet, merely that I might have an opportunity of expressing, in this Dedication, the high veneration in which I hold your person, your abilities, and the firmness with which you defend the holy cause.

Unlike all other servile Dedicators, I detest flattery : therefore I will not say a word of your profound wisdom, your good sense, your great learning, your unbought soul, your personal accomplishments, or your mental endowments : they are already too well known to need any emblazoning. I shall conclude with wishing you may live ten thousand years, and be Prime Minister to King Richard in Judea.

I am,

Prophetic Sir,

Your much obliged, humble Servant,

Fellow Labourer and Sufferer,

Fellow Citizen, and

Citizen Slave,

A CONVERT.

P R E F A C E.

AT this momentous period, teeming with signs, wonders, and extraordinary events, and promising still greater, it would be sinful to withhold the least idea that might tend to enlighten the public mind; and as the world has seen an age of Reason and an age of Infidelity, so also shall the world see an age of Prophecy.

The Reader must not expect to find a long list of scriptural quotations in the following pages, in support of the pretensions of Mr. Brothers to the gift of Prophecy, and to relationship
with

with the ALMIGHTY. He and Mr. Halhed have so ably contended against their adversaries in support of that point, with such weapons, that nothing is left for me but to defend the cause by common sense : And here the Reader will observe, that I have given all the arguments that the unbeliever can make use of, merely to shew their futility, and which cannot be supported but by scripture ; while, on the other side, modern inspiration cannot be supported by Holy Writ entirely. Happy should I be, would Mr. Burke, who, I believe, is a favoured man, take up his goose-quill, and prove clearly to the world that the age of Prophecy is NOT past.

THE
AGE OF PROPHECY.

“**W**HAT!” cries an elderly lady---
“not have faith in Richard Brothers, nor believe him to be the great prophet promised the Jews for centuries back, and predicted by Moses himself? Astonishing infidelity! you must be worse than a Turk. Why, if ever there were prophets---and sure none here can or will deny, that the holy ages of Saul, David, and Solomon, produced legions of prophets, who went about soothsaying in company---I assert, if ever there were prophets, Richard Brothers is one; and, blessed be God! I rest an entire faith in his prophecies, in hopes thereby to be saved from the
A burning

burning of our modern Babylon, as that wise believer Mr. Halhed calls London: for, do you know, Sir," says she, addressing herself to an aged gentleman, with a broad open face, not much the worse for wear, and that seemed to bespeak candour and common sense, though at the same time with no very striking lineaments to engage the attention of the enlightened few; and I must acknowledge, from my small experience in the science of Physiognomy, his countenance did not say, "I am a disciple of the prophet;" of course I was not much prepossessed in his favour---"I am," says the lady, "of the tribe of Benjamin, and descended from King David; and the prophet has promised me, when he has gathered together all God's chosen people, and the seed of Abraham, I shall not be forgotten, but shall be separated from among the sinful generation with whom I now sojourn, and join the chosen tribes in their march to the Holy Land, and perhaps make one in the triumphal entry into Jerusalem."

The old fellow listened with great attention till she had finished her rhapsody---
when,

when, with a sarcastic grin, taking a pinch of snuff, and shaking his head, the Jesuit thus replied : “ Madam, I must really continue to doubt the truth of his prophecies, and the divinity of his mission, till I have some substantial proofs that he is what he pretends to be : I am always very cautious in giving an entire credence to the effusions of every idle impostor, who, from a distempered brain, or some hidden knavish design, agitate the minds of the people, which, in times of public calamity like the present, are susceptible of every impression that madmen or fools may please to give, set the whole country in a ferment, and mould the public opinion to their views like softened wax ; and, what I conceive to be an impeachment to the good sense of any nation and any times, but more particularly so in this *enlightened age*, is, be the pretensions of the impostor ever so ridiculous, or contrary to reason, religion and common sense, he seldom fails of gaining numerous converts to his doctrine, not only passive, misguided converts, but disciples who eagerly embrace every opportunity to propagate his falsehoods among the
vulgar

vulgar and the ignorant ; and it has been supposed there is no remedy to stop the progress of this evil. If he is a fool, the Executive Government think him much beneath its notice : equally so if he is a madman. Thus he can lavish abuse on the Government, alarm the timid, and abuse the knowledge of all, with impunity. If he is a knave, he carries on his design against order and society on a more grand and systematic scale, under the cover of the laws, till he arrives at such a pitch of power, and his disciples become so numerous, each exerting his utmost to make converts, that from fear, enthusiasm, and other causes, the infection becomes general over the majority of the people ; and the minority, of course, once subjugated, a total revolution ensues, moral, religious and political. Such was the case in the East ; and from such trifling beginnings Mahomet became the prophet who overthrew a government and a religion established by ages, and raised his person, while living, and his memory, now dead, to the highest pinnacle of veneration and supposed immortality. Such, I say, was the case there ;
and

such it may be here, if a speedy application is not speedily made to the infected parts; and if this spirit of prophecy is allowed to gain ground, our children, and their children's children, will be studying the revelations of Hanchett, Halhed, and Brothers; and our sober citizens, rejecting the Bible, will spend their Sundays or Sabbaths in reading lessons of morality in the British Alcoran.

“But,” continued he, “there may be others in the secret---some more knaves behind the curtain.”

“Infidel!” cries the old lady, “where do you expect to go to?”

“My dear Madam,” cried he, pulling her by the sleeve, “hear me:---I say there may be others in the secret---the imposition, I should rather call it. Mr. Halhed is a man of some property, and he comes forward into the fore-ground himself; he publishes a vindication of his *brother* prophet. But what do you call Captain Hanchett? O! I fear he is a dumb prophet, but yet speaks too plainly. It is, however, some consolation to perceive, that Ministers are fast recovering from

from the stupor proceeding from the knock-down blow they received at the conclusion of some late *trials*, and that they will have an eye to the prophetic mission. It is a further consolation to know, that a law is still existing, which our forefathers wisely adopted, to lop off such infected branches from the tree of society; and I sincerely hope that Mr. Pitt will make a proper use of it, and inflict justice, not only on Brothers, but also on his abettors and his public vindicators."

Here I started from my chair: the blood flushed into my face; and I could contain myself no longer. "What vindicators?" said I to myself---For the Reader must know that I had already formed the design of writing and publishing a vindication myself, and I was just in the act of breaking the thread of the old fellow's heretical, damnable, abusive, Jacobinical discourse, when a young man gently pulled me down on my chair, and the old Lady, in a whisper, too, bidding me be under no apprehension for the cause, as she had arguments in store that, were he a devil, he could not resist, I acquiesced, and

and resumed my seat; and the old fellow proceeded.

“Therefore, Madam,” cries he, “I had much rather have heresy imputed to me than credulity, and would rather be called an obstinate old blockhead, than be led by the nose by a vain enthusiastic coxcomb, or designing knave, who, to serve himself or friends, makes a great noise in the world about the Lord knows what---forcing all the old women in the town (with deference to your ladyship) to go stark mad---collecting his somniferous lucubrations into undigested, incoherent fulminations---confounding truth, and making mysteries more mysterious---unlocking the enigmas of Daniel and Esdras with as much confidence as Mr. Pitt opens his budget of new taxes, and as much to the satisfaction of some. And would any man who makes or pretends to make religion and the scriptures his guide, act in direct opposition to those tenets which he embraces? Yes, Brothers does. Did not all the prophets prophesy the coming of a Messiah? And that he did come, Brothers does not deny, because he claims
relation-

relationship to him by lineal descent : but he might, with more propriety, and with more of the spirit of Judaism, have denied the Messiah *in toto*, and declared himself to be the person about whom the prophets all spoke and prophesied, and who, by his blood, was to wash away the sins of the world. Mr. Brothers pretends to believe in the Saviour, but denies his gospel, and in direct terms flatly contradicts it ; for, by the sacrifice of the Messiah, the end of all prophecy was fulfilled ; atonement was made ; the Saviour died, but not without giving his believers a caution. He by prescience knew, that impostors would arise, and call themselves prophets : he knew there would not be wanting men weak or wicked enough to promulgate their doctrines : therefore he informed them that no prophet was to come after him. Now, this will put Brothers to the necessity of denying the prescience of CHRIST, and of course all his attributes : or, if he should acknowledge that prescience, he must submit to see his own pretensions fall to the ground ; for I do not recollect that our Saviour made
any

any exception in favour of Brothers. We must therefore allow that his prescience did not extend to this remote age, or that he utterly forgot to insert a clause in his gospel, justifying the pretensions of his nephew to the gift of prophecy. But Brothers does not give one single proof of his prophetic mission: Moses conversed with the Almighty, gave plagues to Egypt, brought water from a rock, changed his rod to a serpent, and divided the sea: Elisha, Elias, Daniel, and all the prophets, wrought miracles: our Saviour raised the dead, cured the blind, the deaf, the dumb and the lame, and fed the hungry miraculously; nay, even his followers wrought wonders. But what does our modern would-be prophet do, to prove his errand, and insure belief?---he who impiously and presumptuously ranks himself the equal, if not the superior of the Messiah! Give me some certain proofs.”——

“ That I will, infidel !” pretty vehemently interrupted the old lady---“ I will tell you what he has done, and what he has

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said,

said, to convince you immediately of his being a prophet."

I now began to brighten up: for, you may call it superstition, or weakness, or worse if you please---but this I dare aver, and I dare say, too, that no person, even if he does not believe in dreams, ghosts, apparitions, and supernatural agency, will deny, that prophets may as well exist now as they did two or three thousand years ago. The difference, too, in the times, is but small: prophets were then in the habit of being fed miraculously: we read of Elisha, in the Wilderness, sitting in eager expectation of his breakfast from the mouth of a raven; but now, unless he can engage a credulous multitude to believe and support him, he might sit as long in this great City as in a Wilderness, before any good-natured raven would bring him a piece of beef---'tis not so plentiful now: but prophets in those days had a wonderful knack of living on nothing; no other mode of existence could be more a-propos to the present period---for of nothing there is a most plentiful abundance; but it is a spiritual sort of food,
and

and none but prophets can live on it ; but, such as it is, we must be content, and should thank our rulers for their great kindness in engaging us in this just and necessary war, thereby taking away our superfluities, and preparing our hearts to be humble and meek, that we might receive the prophet and his prophecies without doubting. I say, thank God the times are no worse ! And so may the widowed matron exclaim, when, with tears in her eyes, she beholds the last remains of her small loaf, and her cruce of oil nearly extinct : in vain may she desire to see it filled ; for, unless Mr. Brothers would exert himself, and by a miracle fill it, it must remain empty ; and that time is not arrived : yet I really think, that should Mr. Brothers condescend to employ himself in so charitable a work, it would go a great way towards establishing a point absolutely necessary, to prove the affinity between the times now, and the days of Moses, and the possibility of the existence of a prophet in these grosser, degenerated days ; and if we admit the possibility, the probability comes of course ; and if we admit the

probability, nothing remains but that we believe our eye-sight and hearing---for who can doubt when GOD ALMIGHTY's own nephew rises up as a prophet? This I call proof positive, and carries with it as strong conviction of the existence of the prophet, as Mr. Halhed's proof can of his inspiration; and I repeat, who can doubt it? and yet there are those who not only profess to doubt, but, with an effrontery peculiar to the old fellow who spoke last, totally to deny him; but they are the devoted who are doomed to destruction with this Sodom in Egypt, as Mr. Halhed justly interprets London; they shut their eyes to the light of an enlightened age, and pretend to be guided by common sense: but, God help them! say I; they must believe in Richard Brothers, or they are certainly as damned as those unbelieving Jews who persecuted his ancestor.

I beg pardon for making so long a digression, especially as I intended to give my decision after the dispute had ended, and likewise after I had seen and felt the holy man myself, which is requisite, to the end that I
might

might give the reader some idea of his person, manners, &c. I once more beg pardon, and return to the argument.

With much perturbation, the old lady fluttered her fan, adjusted her cloaths, and put herself in a proper attitude of vindication; while inspiration seemed to beam from her eyes, and, by a most proper contraction of the muscles of her nose, she signified the utmost contempt for her opponent and his incredulity; (and well she might; it was meritorious zeal.)

She paid but little attention to the remonstrance of a young gentleman in company, who told her how impolite it was to interrupt the gentleman till he had finished his discourse. "Don't tell me of politeness," says she: "where do we find such a word as politeness in all the Bible? and besides, I can hear his blasphemies no longer; I must answer him: and so, Sir," turning to her opponent, "as I was saying before, I will bring home conviction to your mind in a few words; I will give you proofs, and such proofs

as

as no man in his sober senses can hesitate one moment to believe.

“ In the first place, Sir, he is GOD ALMIGHTY’s nephew; and where will you find an Emperor, King, Pope, or Elector, pretend to such a descent? He can trace back his pedigree even beyond Abraham: is not that enough to convince you? Has he not conversed familiarly with God, who has disclosed to him his most hidden purposes? Did Moses more? Is he not “ the man who will be revealed to the Hebrews as their prince, to all nations as their governor, according to the covenant with King David, immediately under God?” Is he not to lead back the Jews, visible and invisible, to the Holy Land? Has he not prophesied the destruction of London long ago, but only put off its fate a little longer, till he has packed up, and is ready to depart? Did he not prophesy that the prisoners indicted for High Treason were innocent, in a letter addressed to Mr. Pitt, bearing date November 9th, 1794? Now, as I detest the idea of mean subterfuge, I will acknowledge that it did not

not require much inspiration to know *that* at that time, because Hardy was acquitted four days preceding, viz. Nov. 5th. Has he not prophesied that England will not be the better for having engaged in the present war? why, from the common consequences of wars in general, that cannot be controverted: even Mr. Pitt himself might have believed him, and known it to be true without the aid of inspiration; and that England may be fifty millions poorer at the conclusion of the third campaign, and fifty thousand souls less in the market of Babylon, than at the commencement of the first, none can deny."

(*Note.*) I intend to inquire of Mr. Halhed, if the gross souls of such tradesmen, mechanics and husbandmen, as have been driven from their wives and families, and have left their corporeal parts on the plains of Brabant, the sands of Dunkirk, the dykes of Holland, or the frozen wilds of Germany, were marketable commodities when in England? A friend of mine, who pretends to be as deeply skilled in the principles of political commerce, says, no, with some exceptions, such as a liveryman of London, who,
if

if he is not connected with any contractor or commercial monopoly, I mean company, or under any obligation to a great man, may carry his soul to market, and sell it to the highest bidder: the same of a number of freemen, householders, potboilers, &c. in various parts of the kingdom; but their number is but small, when compared to the great majority of the people, who have no interest in the welfare of the state, nor souls of their own to sell. But to return to the conversation.

“Has he not prophesied that all the potentates of Europe will die violent deaths? And how can you take upon you to deny those things, when you see the work has already begun? Is not the King of Sweden dead, who was to be commander in chief of the armies against France, and lead them from Sweden to Paris by way of Normandy? Is not Louis dead? though, to be sure, he did not prophesy that till after he was dead! But as for the King of Sweden, he could have foretold his death long before it happened, had he pleased; but he did not chuse to make every body as wise as himself in an affair of such importance. And has he

he not already cut a rod, which is now preparing to be metamorphosed into a serpent when the appointed time arrives that he is by that sign to reveal himself to the Jews as their prince and prophet, as Moses did before him? The high esteem he is held in by God ALMIGHTY is palpable and conspicuous, from the intercession he has made, and the promise of safety obtained, for those very men who treat him with so much contempt, even William Pitt, who places no more confidence in his prophecies than he does in the faith of the King of Prussia or infallibility of the Pope. There is a long string of other names, among which is Mr. Pitt's brother, that late vigilant first Lord of the Admiralty, a person who, I am informed, is to have a statue erected, at the expence of the Merchants and Underwriters of London, to perpetuate their grateful remembrance of his vast abilities in the office which he filled, exemplified in the protection he afforded their fleets, and who refused Brothers the privilege of receiving his wages while in the King's service, without acknowledging the same by the

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usual wicked formalities of oath-taking; but his own assertions, as Mr. Halhed says, are the best proofs, not only of his being inspired, but also of the great ascendancy he had over all the prophets that ever went before him, when speaking of the impiety and cruelty of the King of Prussia joining the confederacy against a righteous, merciful and just French Convention, and the liberties of a great people, who had not only procured themselves abundance of liberty, but generously offered to procure the same for all the world besides; he gives the prophecy of Daniel concerning him in page 29th of Part II. of his book, which was, that for three years and a half, he, *i. e.* the King of Prussia, should conquer and destroy multitudes of them (the French.) Then Mr. Brothers proceeds and says, "But
 " my prayers prevailed with God, even
 " against his own recorded judgments by
 " Daniel;" and in consequence of his prayers, and nothing else, I assure you the King of Prussia was driven back with shame and confusion. If other proofs are necessary, know, that although he is a poor illiterate man, raised up
 to

to confound the wisdom of the wise, yet he miraculously prints his prophecies, and gives them away, that none may be ignorant of their contents by pleading poverty, or inability to buy; and we have God's own words that it is all true, and every word authentic; and it is said that he has given away upwards of 8000, which convinces me (notwithstanding your impious insinuation of folks being behind the curtain), that he either receives the means, the materials, or, which is more probable than all, the books, ready printed, direct from Heaven.

“ Now, I have given you numerous proofs of his knowledge of futurity: but how, you will foolishly ask, came he by that knowledge? why, by inspiration, to be sure, Mr. Stupidity---how would you have those things revealed? And has not Mr. Halhed borne sufficient testimony to his mission, and his inspired writings? Yes, I say, the wise Mr. Halhed, a Member of the British Parliament, a man skilled in expounding riddles, and analysing the enigmas of Daniel, Esdras and St. John, and knows as much

concerning the seven candlesticks as *Corporal Trim* knew of the King of Bohemia and his seven castles, and can interpret the signification of prophecy, inspiration and revelation, with as much facility and strict adherence to truth as an Attorney General construes law, justice and constructive treason---he says himself, that "in the occupation of deciphering mysterious and allegorical modes of composition, he is not at all undisciplined. Fortified, therefore, with this pre-acquired aptitude for such studies," he sits down to expound the expoundings of the prophet Brothers; and does it in such clear, conspicuous terms, that none but an infidel can doubt the authenticity of the prophecies; and, as Mr. Halhed says, if we admit the prophecies, we must admit the prophet; and very justly. But, Mr. Wiseacre, for," says she, "I hardly know how to be civil to such blockheads, "if you deny inspiration, how would you have God reveal his mind? I don't set myself up for a prophetess---yet this I know, my dreams are always sure to come true, and I call them visions and revelations, and

I will tell you such things that I have dreamt as would amaze you. But, however, before you pretend to deny, nay, even to doubt of the infallibility of Mr. Brothers, wait with patience, I pray you, to see all those things fulfilled which he has written; and do not triumph in your unbelief because you are not swallowed up with Sodom, and say that the prophecy is false concerning it, but rather down on your knees, and thank your God you have so great, so powerful an advocate, who will put off the impending judgment till June or July next. But, as I said before, I will tell you what a strange dream I had, which I am sure foretels something great:--- I beheld a beast with three heads and a long tail, which reached up to the heavens: the first head was like that of a cat, meek and demure; the second, like that of an owl, wisdom itself; and the third head, which was the largest, neatly powdered, but hidden from the sight by a huge cocked hat, ornamented with a cockade---methought it grew larger and larger; and a strange hubbub now proceeded from a multitude of swine that followed

lowed behind, and which increased in number as the beast grew larger : from time to time the beast made a noise from the two side heads, the middle one remaining silent : the multitude seemed much delighted with the noise, and, with mouths wide open, eagerly swallowed the excrement that the beast frequently voided, which was black as ink, and flew into their eyes, so as to blind them ; yet, notwithstanding their blindness, they implicitly followed their leader, and with more boldness ; knocking their heads against posts and walls, breaking their shins over blocks and stones, with which the way was interspersed : now I beheld a huge image, with legs and feet made of lead, and arms of iron ; it stood firm, though the beast butted against it with mighty force ; at length, with a slow motion, the image lifted up its hand, and seized the beast by the throat, and it was strangled ; the multitude instantly van——.”

Here the old lady interrupted herself by a loud shriek, on perceiving the maid, who was bringing in supper, spill the salt, and another careless hussy lay two knives across :

across: she fainted, and was carried out of the room, to my great disappointment, as I wished to hear the conclusion of her vision, and not a little hoped she would give us an interpretation. The old matrons in company left us, to attend her; and there remained only the old man, myself, and another person. I began deadly to fear the old man would have all his own way, as I was not skilled in controversy: nor were my fears unfounded; for, after a little pause, he observed, that the absent lady appeared to be much infatuated with Mr. Brothers: "Nor is it to be wondered at," says he; "for she is the very essence of superstition: the prediction of a comet will give her the vapours for twelve months to come; and the report of a strange appearance observed in the moon, a total eclipse, or a black spot on the surface of the sun, will afford her food for conversation, disputation and conjecture, for as many months more; and from all which she augurs the approaching destruction of the world, or overthrow of states: she herself has seen armies meet, and fight horrid and bloody battles in the firmament,

firmament, and is continually making the heavens a mirror to the earth, or a looking-glass for futurity : if a dog howls, she is sure to prophesy the death of some of her neighbours ; and so fond is she of ringing her predictions, that some have been known to die with the fright : but she shews the greatest proof of her folly in attempting a defence of our impostor."

"What, then, Sir," cries I, "you are not to be convinced by the arguments the lady has made use of?"

"Quite the contrary," replies the old man ; "for I can confute them in a few words. The deception is founded entirely on inspiration : when it is once clearly proved that he really is inspired, then some credit may be placed in his prophecies, as he is pleased to term them ; but, till then, I shall remain an unbeliever. He is GOD ALMIGHTY's nephew : how does he know it ? by inspiration. He has given the world a new age by inspiration : he has foretold the destruction of London by inspiration, and the death of all the the Monarchs in Europe by inspiration : he
fore-

foretels the literal reinstatement of the Jews in the Holy Land by inspiration : all he knows, all he prognosticates, is by inspiration. Now, every commentator on the prophets, and on the revelations of St. John, endeavours to make the texts mutually assist in expounding each other ; and all rest their decisions on the reason that appears in their arguments : and their references and solutions will bear the test of the day-light of reason, and appear more agreeable to common sense the closer they are connected with each other. Thus each text of the prophets, or any abstracted part of the revelations, is an individual and a dependent part on the great whole, and which, the learned of all ages agree, predicted the coming of the Messiah, and the rise and fall of Popery : but Mr. Brothers overleaps those bounds, and, as Mr. Halhed says, “ comes at “ his knowledge a shorter way.” And what is that short way? why, by rejecting the aid of learning, and labour of study, he fathoms the depths of Daniel, Esdras, and the revelations, by an immediate and direct inspiration from God, which Mr. Halhed undertakes to prove in this manner : because

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“ he

“ he tells us, in a dry, concise, unqualified assertion, that such a thing is so and so, as he has it from God; but he gives us no reason why it should be so;” and must (let me ask Mr. Halhed) his bare assertions prove to me that these things are really so, or that he is inspired? or is Mr. Halhed’s proof sufficient, that he asserts a thing, without a reason why it should be so, to shew his inspiration? But the task of explaining was left for the sapience of Mr. Halhed, which he does clearly; and by demonstrating that the Empress of Russia is a bear, and that she has three ribs in her mouth, and three appetites, lust, ambition and cruelty, between her teeth, he proves the total revolution of Europe, which Mr. Brothers predicted. It would be equally vain to take notice of every absurdity broached by Halhed and Brothers, as useless and impossible to answer every part of that incoherent and indigested mass of matter contained in their productions. I shall therefore confine myself to some of the most prominent of their absurdities; for neither the unqualified assertions of Brothers, nor the elucidations of Halhed in
his

his support, can convince me that he is an inspired man. As to his calling himself GOD ALMIGHTY's nephew, that is highly ridiculous, and inspiration he must have to support his pretensions---not that I deny that Mary, the mother of JESUS, had any other children besides JESUS; that would be descending to too much frivolity: I only say, that he needs inspiration to support his pretensions: so, indeed, he does to every thing he says; 'tis his sheet-anchor. If Richard Brothers was to shew me a strong building, and tell me it would fall before such a certain period as he should name, I would doubt it, and say, what are your reasons? He replies, I know it will fall by inspiration: if you want any further conviction, go, search the Scriptures; but, to save his word, and his character as a seer, he may either send some of his numerous devotees to pull it down, or, if it stands after the time predicted for its fall has elapsed, he has only to say that he interceded with the ALMIGHTY to permit its standing a little longer. But, should an experienced architect tell me it would fall, he would give me his

reasons, that either it was not built on true principles, that the foundation had settled, or that it had decayed by age : I should place some confidence in his declaration, but none in that of the inspired surveyor.

It would be an useless task to follow him through a perplexing labyrinth of wild assertions, and constructions of various texts of Scripture, where, in one place, he allows the prophets to foretell the coming of the Messiah ---in another, by various sophisms, he interprets them to mean himself: in one place, Babylon is Babylon; in another, Babylon is Rome; and in the third, Babylon is London; and the whole is connected, if there be such a thing as connection in his arguments, by numerous inuendoes. It would be prolonging my discourse, were I to call to my aid a long string of Scripture quotations to confute him, as any person less skilled in the Scriptures than Brothers, can find sufficient to answer the purpose. Yet how expressly does God himself deny the existence of a person of the aspiring pretensions of Brothers, I cannot pass over : “ And JESUS said unto them, take
“ heed

“ heed that no man deceive you ; for many
 “ shall come in my name, saying, I
 “ am CHRIST, and shall deceive many.”
 Matth. xxiv. 4, 5.---And again, “ Then if
 “ any man shall say unto you, Lo ! here
 “ is CHRIST, or there, believe it not ; for
 “ there shall arise false CHRISTs and false
 “ prophets, and shall shew great signs and
 “ wonders, infomuch that (if it were pos-
 “ sible) they shall deceive the very Elect.”
 Matth. xxiv. 23, 24.---What can be a more
 positive denial of his mission ? and the New
 Testament abounds with such cautions. But
 in fact Brothers builds his political and reli-
 gious fabric on such a basis of inconsistency,
 that instead of reconciling the Scriptures to
 his designs, he makes them the engines to
 confute himself, notwithstanding all his
 extreme caution ; and those very prophets on
 whose authority he founds his own preten-
 sions, he denies and contradicts, by asserting
 that his intercession with the ALMIGHTY
 averted those evils which they prophesied
 would befall London : by so doing, he denies
 them to be prophets ; for what are we to
 suppose

suppose a prophet to be but one whose predictions shall surely come to pass at the time appointed? And if those predictions do not occur, they can be no prophets. How must Daniel bite his nails, and how chagrined must Esdras and others appear, if they are acquainted with the connections of God in those latter days, and that their veracity is doubted, and their prophecies questioned!---By the same rule, and to suit his own purposes, he denies the omniscience of Jesus, and yet affects to believe in him. Such a mode of arguing is so very repugnant to reason, common sense, and the Scriptures, that none but a madman or an impostor could have the effrontry to use it. Thus he perverts several texts, and alleges that he does so by God's verbal command to him in a vision: and of those things which the old lady informed me he had predicted, not one has been fulfilled; and if they never should, he has a good salvo to save his word, (as he prophesies nothing but evil), by saying that he interceded with God, and averted the judgments. In this manner may he prophesy till he can no longer
open

open his mouth or hold a pen : and yet, that people should be so infatuated with his nonsense in this enlightened age, in this age of reformation, this age of reason, wherein superstition vanishes, and melts like wax before a furnace, astonishes me ; but that our reformers and revolutionists, a great part of whom will not submit to the supposed imposition of the mystery of a Trinity, or the existence of a Saviour, should promulgate his doctrines, is not perhaps so surprising when we perceive their motives. Notwithstanding he so closely blends religion and politics together, which is a thing they pretend so much to detest, and which should be detested---notwithstanding he fulminates destruction to every vestige of Monarchical Government, yet he would establish one more powerful than all others collectively : they pretend to believe him, therefore ; because the first part is so consonant to their ideas, they would hazard the second---thinking, perhaps, they might more easily cope with one. It is the desire of the most violent and ill-principled men to create distrust, disorder, and anarchy ; and for that
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that purpose, a more proper instrument could not be found than Mr. Brothers ; and I really think he is that passive tool of some men of the above description, who would

——— “ ride in the whirlwind,
“ And direct the storm ! ”

“ Brothers, under the pretended sanctity of his manners, his specious reasoning on scriptural causes for some late events, his pretensions to inspiration, and his solutions of holy writ in predicting those events which are hidden under the veil of futurity, gains many converts ; but which common speculation, without the assistance of inspiration, might induce us to conjecture would occur, though not to such an exaggerated extent as Brothers’s most insidious doctrines would make the ignorant believe.

“ I think myself, that the affairs of Europe are hastening with rapid strides to a momentous crisis, particularly in England, where we already float on bubbles which must soon burst ; nor will I rob Mr. Pitt of the merit he may justly claim in hastening the approaching period. The endeavours of those
men

men on whom Mr. Pitt and HIS House of Representatives (I will not say, the People's) so abundantly lavish the appellation of Jacobins that it is rung as the *tocsin* of terror all over the Kingdom, are not to be put in the scale of competition with the exertions of Mr. Pitt, in accelerating the subversion of the constitution of England. I have nothing more to add, but appeal to your good sense, and entreat you to renounce those superstitious doctrines, which shew not your wisdom so much as your timidity, and which tend to debase the spirit of men who would be free: meet not danger half-way; but when tribulation arrives, support yourselves with fortitude, or encounter those troubles with firmness, perseverance and resolution, which you cannot avert."

He had no sooner finished his discourse, than I arose, and retired to my chamber; for I had begun to perceive that my passions, which at the beginning of this discourse were ready to burst forth, now subsided, and would most inevitably have ended in a slumber. Not thinking his argument in support of infidelity entitled to any other answer than

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that of silent contempt, I was determined to vent my rage upon paper. You may call it prophetic mania, if you please: I do not value the aspersions of the wicked; I am above their sneers. As I would not, however, incur the blame of making a hasty decision, I shall briefly relate my arguments in favour of his mission, which are nothing more than the clear, incontestible texts of Scripture, he brings to his support, and the just, concise and reasonable mode of expounding the same, adopted by Mr. Halhed; and I could bring five thousand proofs more from the same authority, would time allow, and by the same method that Mr. Halhed makes use of and converts every word in the Old and New Testament, from Genesis to the Revelations of St. John, to that purpose---For instance, in Genesis, chap. xii. verse 3d, God says, "And I will make thee
" a great nation:" And again, verse 4th,
" And I will bless him that blesteth, and curse
" him that curseth thee; and in thee shall all
" families of the earth be blessed." Now, who can be so ignorant as to suppose that God meant Abraham in this promise? It signified

signified Mr. Brothers certainly, of whom Abraham was only a type: it was a promise to our modern Abraham, the father and the prince of the Jews. This, I think, is sufficient proof. Now, if ever Mr. Brothers was in want of a counsellor, surely I am: for freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and the freedom of the press, lie under such oppressive restrictions, that a man scarcely knows how to indulge his ideas; or I would, in imitation of Mr. Brothers, lash the government, and conclude my book with censures on the present conduct of Ministers: but let them go on---they will not regard any friendly caution till the Elector of Hanover is no more, and his Electorate seized by the King of Prussia or the Emperor, according to the prophecies. But, however, I think it most prudent to say nothing about politics, notwithstanding it has been the custom of holy seers and priests to meddle with state affairs, and which I think was the origin of having spiritual lords in the Legislature.

Now, I have seen some people appear staggered at the ignorance of Mr. Brothers,

who says, that GOD himself instructed him with lectures upon law, and yet that he should require the advice of GOD concerning his book ; for GOD said to him, holding the book of his prophecies in his hand, “ There is “ nothing in this book that the English Law “ can take hold of.” (Vide page 71, Part II.) These are GOD’s express words. But let me ask these people, what has a prophet to do with law ? Can it be expected that he should descend to the quirks and quibbles of a professed lawyer ? and yet some expect a prophet to have dealings with the devil ; and I have read of a Lord Chancellor, who, a little while after the glorious and ever to be praised revolution of 1688, that epoch of humility and taxes, expected a prophet should know the law as well as himself, which, for the sake of shewing the unexampled ignorance of the said Lord Chancellor, and the glaring infidelity of the times, I will relate as I have read it :

“ Soon after the accession of King Wil-
 “ liam III. to the Throne of this Country, a
 “ man pretending to be inspired, predicted
 “ the death of the King, and the restoration
 “ of

“ of the Stuart line to the British Govern-
 “ ment. The man was taken into custody;
 “ and a short time after, another prophetic
 “ seer waited upon the Lord Chancellor, and
 “ obtained an interview. The *soi-disant*
 “ prophetic informed his Lordship, that he
 “ had the moment before parted from GOD
 “ ALMIGHTY, who had specially commanded
 “ him to go to the Lord Chancellor, and order
 “ his Lordship to issue a *noli prosequi* in be-
 “ half of the imprisoned seer. The Lord
 “ Chancellor told the man that he was con-
 “ vinced he was an impostor, as the High
 “ Authority he pretended to come from must
 “ have “ *known more of the law*” than to
 “ have sent such a message to him, as the
 “ power of granting a *noli prosequi* belonged
 “ to the office of the Attorney General.”

But let me ask any Lord Chancellor, what
 have prophets to do with law at all? Men
 who act under the immediate inspiration of
 a Diety, shall law be our guide when we ar-
 rive at the promised country? No---surely
 not. Our country will be ruled by prophets
 and holy men: liberty and equality shall be
 our

our law---inspiration and revelation our guide :
 our labour shall be going about the country,
 soothsaying and prophesying damnation to all
 the world besides, uttering anathemas and
 fulminations against the whore of Babylon
 and the sons of Belial : by miracles, the
 barren plains of Judea shall be made to flow
 with milk and honey, and the thirsty sands of
 Canaan shall be quenched by waters extracted
 from the rocks : the clouds shall again drop
 manna, and laborious works shall cease. Then,
 to aid and hasten the completion of this work,
 and finish a system invented by Mr. Brothers,
 which connects religion and politics, bloodshed
 and peace, famine and plenty, together, in a
 mass, to suit all dispositions and inclinations,
 I have only to say to the chosen, PROMUL-
 GATE, and to the infidel, BELIEVE ; for King
 Richard Brothers is surely a Democrat and a
 Prophet.

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